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June 13, 2007 - A Fox Lake man is the first to be charged for using a popular internet social networking site to prey on minors.

Michael Macalindong faces child pornography charges for luring a 15-year-old boy to his home.

Federal authorities said Macalindong took inappropriate pictures and video of at least three minors.

The 24-year-old allegedly met one of his victims by posing as a teenager on Facebook.com.

Facebook has been working on ways to tighten its security in light of the allegations. A spokeswoman with the social networking site confirmed the company has been working with local authorities on this case.

Despite efforts nationally and locally, teens and their parents are the front lines when it comes to internet safety.

Facebook is a social networking site known for its privacy. Of its thousands of networks, a user must be affiliated with that school or company to join. Now it seems a local man may have pierced that internet armor by using a student's identity.

Macalindong was arrested in February in Fox Lake according to the Lake County prosecutors office. On Tuesday, he was indicted in federal court.

"What happened in Fox Lake is part of a growing epidemic," said 10th District Congressman Mark Kirk-R. "I think that Congress needs to do more, especially with these website to make sure they don't turn into virtual hunting grounds for kids."

The indictment describes the alleged enticement of three minors to engage in sexual activity and photograph or video tape the activity. Lake County Sheriffs deputies seized his computers and images. Internet safety advocates have warned parents and children about all social networking sites -- even the ones that seem safer.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan heads the Illinois Internet Crimes against Children Task Force.

She said while law enforcement looks for ways to find predators online, parents and teens have to be informed about the possible dangers of talking with people on line.

"Now it's very well known that there are creeps on MySpace. It's been thought that Facebook is far more private and much more safe. What this case shows you if you're on the Internet, you're not always safe," said Madigan. "Realize unless you really know that person, somebody you met face to face, somebody you go to school with, it might not be who the person claims to be."

Facebook issued a statement saying: "We have zero tolerance for the misuse of our site by anyone and have reviewed the perpetrator's actions to improve our systems in response to this incident. Facebook continues to offer extensive privacy controls and other technology to empower users to protect themselves against those who might do them harm."

The attorney general said since January the task force has investigated cyber tips which have resulted in 83 arrests.

In fact, a man from Wheaton was arrested Tuesday for soliciting a child in a chat room.